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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness. -- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

U.S. Police Rethinking How They Use Force Amid National Outrage

By Tami Abdollah

Police across the U.S. are rethinking how they use force amid outrage over questionable shootings and violent arrests.

The changes include efforts in Dallas to train officers to de-escalate situations by moving backward during target practice and arming some with less-lethal sponge projectiles. In Camden County, N.J., officers are taught about the sanctity of life and encouraged to take time to defuse a situation, even if a suspect is wildly waving a knife at them.

After months of work, nearly 200 law enforcement leaders gathered in Washington on Friday to review and discuss new guiding principles that, if enacted by the roughly 18,000 law enforcement agencies, would significantly remake how policing has been done. The 30 principles include an unprecedented acknowledgment from leading law enforcement professionals that officers should go beyond the Supreme Court-adopted basic legal standard that asks what a "reasonable officer" would do, and that officers should focus on preserving all human lives in any encounter.

"There's an expression, 'Lawful but awful,'" said Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, who led the effort to develop the principles. "I think (these principles) would impact on some level these really tragic shootings of the mentally ill, the homeless person, the unarmed person. It could have an enormous impact."

The principles, which will be released officially in an upcoming report, require officers to respond proportionally to a suspect, imagining the public's perception of that response, and to communicate effectively instead of, for example, repeatedly telling a suspect to drop the weapon. The principles recommend departments stop training on "outdated concepts," such as the "21-foot-rule," which refers to the distance an armed suspect with a knife can close before an officer can draw their weapon. Instead, officers are encouraged to create more distance and use cover, so that they give themselves more time to respond.

Researchers traveled to Scotland to study how police there, who are nearly all unarmed, use distance, often backing away from suspects with their hands up, for example, to encourage calm. In one video, officers in Camden, N.J., encountered a man high on narcotics who had threatened a man with a knife. Video showed officers walking with the man for four city blocks, clearing pedestrians ahead of him and telling other responders to standby, as he wildly waved his knife at them.

"About a year and a half ago we would've shot and killed him, there's no doubt in my mind," said Camden County Police Chief Scott Thomson. But "we were very happily trying to walk him back to Philadelphia," he joked.

In Dallas, the department is training 100 officers to use less-lethal sponge projectiles. Once on scene, patrol officers would back up and put their guns away and allow the specially trained officers to take over.

"We're trying to instill in every opportunity, de-escalation, distance," Dallas police Deputy Chief Jeffrey Cotner said. When officers begin qualifying on the gun range in March they'll move away from the targets, not toward them.

But Geoffrey Alpert, a criminology professor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, said, "A lot of departments have very good policies, very good procedures and good training, but they're not followed."

Police Protective League Director Jamie McBride, a detective who is one of nine representing the LAPD's 9,800 sworn officers, said the new principles weren't new and were common sense. He also noted that American officers, unlike those in Scotland, patrol communities that are often heavily armed and violent.

--Associated Press, February 1, 2016

Trump's Plan to Randomly Shoot People Lacks Details, Random Shooters Say

By Andy Borowitz

One day after Donald Trump claimed that he could shoot people on New York's Fifth Avenue and not lose support, a leading member of the random-shooting community complained that the billionaire's random-shooting plan lacks specifics.

Harland Dorrinson, who heads the largest association of random shooters in the nation, said that Trump's Fifth Avenue plan "lacked many of the key ingredients necessary for a credible random shooting."

"There's no weapons cache, no twisted manifesto to be found later by authorities," Dorrinson said. "To anyone in the random-shooting world, Trump's plan fails on so many levels."

Moreover, he said, Trump has not put in the many years of

solitary seething that most random shooters deem mandatory.

"Before you do a random shooting, you're supposed to be quiet and keep to yourself," he said. "Trump is always shouting."

Dorrinson added that although many random shooters have been in the Trump camp thus far, the candidate's vague random-shooting "plan" is now giving them pause.

-- *The New Yorker*, Jan. 25, 2016

Andy Borowitz is an comedian and New York Times-bestselling author who satirizes the news for his column, "The Borowitz Report."

Speeches that earned Clinton millions remain a mystery

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Hillary Clinton told voters in the latest Democratic debate there's "hardly anything you don't know about me."

Just minutes later, she got tangled in a question about a part of her resume that is an enduring mystery.

In the 18 months before launching her second presidential bid, Clinton gave nearly 100 paid speeches at banks, trade associations, charitable groups and private corporations. The appearances netted her $21.7 million.

What she said — or didn't say — to Wall Street banks in particular has become a significant problem for her presidential campaign.

Clinton addressed a broad swath of industries, speaking to supermarket companies in Colorado, clinical pathologists in Illinois and travel agents in California, to name several. Many of the companies and trade organizations are lobbying Congress over a variety of interests.

She typically delivered an address, then answered questions from a pre-vetted interviewer. Her standard fee was $225,000, though occasionally it could range up to $400,000.

Other than her fees, which her campaign disclosed in response to media inquiries, details about most of her closed speeches are nearly impossible to find. The Associated Press and other news organizations have asked repeatedly for transcripts.

"I don't think voters are interested in the transcripts of her speeches," Joel Benenson, Clinton's pollster, told reporters Friday. But it was a voter who asked about her transcripts at a town-hall event on CNN on Wednesday.

AP's inquiries to the campaign about her appearances before several Wall Street banks went unanswered. Deutsche Bank, which paid Clinton $475,000, declined to comment, as did Goldman Sachs.

Although many of her remarks were given to large groups, they were frequently barred to media coverage and few recordings are available online. In many instances, Clinton's contract prohibited her comments from being broadcast, transcribed or "otherwise reproduced," according a copy of one such agreement with the University of Buffalo.

Many organizations she addressed were reluctant to share details or even confirm her attendance, in part because contracts for those kinds of speakers typically prohibit sharing that information.

-- Associated Press, February 6, 2016

A Crisis in Civic Education

A new report documents the absolute failure of government schools and civic education.

Here are some highlights:

Only 20.6% of respondents could identify James Madison as the Father of the Constitution. More than 60% thought the answer was Thomas Jefferson despite the fact that Jefferson, as U.S. ambassador to France, was not present during the Constitutional Convention.

College graduates performed only a little better: 28.4% named Madison, and 59.2% chose Jefferson.

• How do Americans amend the Constitution? More than half of college graduates didn't know. Almost 60% of college graduates failed to identify correctly a requirement for ratifying a constitutional amendment.

• We live in a dangerous world—but almost 40% of college graduates didn't know that Congress has the power to declare war.

• College graduates were even confused about the term lengths of members of Congress. Almost half could not recognize that senators are elected to six-year terms and representatives are elected to two-year terms.

• Less than half of college graduates knew that presidential impeachments are tried before the U.S. Senate.

• And 9.6% of college graduates marked that Judith Sheindlin—"Judge Judy"—was on the Supreme Court.

-- goacta.org/ACrisisinCivicEducation

Commentary: The deeper concern is that American students are not being taught that we have natural rights to life, liberty and property.

If we can't get that message across, knowing facts about the Constitution will not be sufficient to get them to adopt a liberty-focused worldview.

"Eyewash': How the CIA Deceives Its Own Workforce

Senior CIA officials have for years intentionally deceived parts of the agency workforce by transmitting internal memos that contain false information about operations and sources overseas, in a practice known as "eyewash."

Agency veterans described the tactic as an infrequent but important security measure, by inserting fake communications into routine cable traffic while using separate channels to convey accurate information to cleared recipients.

But others cited a significant potential for abuse. There is no clear mechanism for labeling eyewash cables or distinguishing them from legitimate records being examined by the CIA's inspector general, turned over to Congress or declassified for historians.

Senate Intelligence Committee investigators uncovered apparent cases of eyewashing as part of a multi-year probe of the CIA's interrogation program.

At least two eyewashing cases are cited in the classified version of the committee's final report, according to officials who have reviewed the document.

Even among CIA veterans, there are significant gaps in their awareness and understanding of eyewashing.

Five former high-ranking CIA officials, including several who worked in the general counsel or inspector general offices, said they had never heard the term or encountered the practice of using internal communications to mislead agency employees.

Fred Hitz, who served as the CIA's inspector general from 1990 to 1998, said that intentionally deceiving agency employees seemed fraught with risk. "Somebody who is not clued in could take action on the basis" of false information, Hitz said. "That's really playing with fire." But others said that eyewashing was a standard

security practice that had been in existence for decades.

"It's just another form of compartmentation," said a former senior U.S. intelligence official, referring to the restriction of sensitive information to select recipients. He and others spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Federal law makes it a criminal offense when a government employee "conceals, covers up, falsifies or makes a false entry" in an official record. Legal experts said they knew of no special exemption for the CIA, nor any attempt to prosecute agency officials for alleged violations.

The CIA declined to comment.

Former CIA officials involved in sending eyewash cables said they had never seen the practice cause serious repercussions, either by confusing agency leaders or leading to false intelligence being disseminated to other branches of government.

Even so, they acknowledged that the internal mechanisms for managing eyewash cables were largely informal. Those who send the follow-on cable are supposed to refer to its false counterpart, providing a potential key to future investigators or other outsiders

Skeptics described the safeguards as inadequate.

"When you introduce falsehoods into the communications stream then you can destabilize the whole system of intelligence oversight and compliance with the law," said Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy expert at the Federation of American Scientists.

"It wasn't that long ago that we had a CIA executive director who was engaged in criminal activity — you don't want someone like him preparing eyewash cables," Aftergood said, referring to Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, the former No. 3 executive at the agency who in 2008 pleaded guilty to a corruption charge.

-- Washington Post February 1, 2016

Some Russians have built the perfect apocalypse survival vehicle

Someday, civilization will collapse. It is with that knowledge that a group of Russians — who might know more than most about the perils of that collapse — have built the Sherp. It's an all-terrain vehicle that can easily climb over barriers more than 2 feet high. Water is no obstacle, making it truly *all*-terrain. Oh, and it can be yours for less than $70,000.

It looks almost like a Tonka toy, with comically huge tires and odd proportions. It weighs a bit less than 3,000 pounds, propelled by a 44-horsepower 1.5-liter Kubota diesel engine. It's not fast, topping out at 28 mph (3.7 mph on water), but given the terrain it can cover that's plenty. It comes with a 15.3-gallon fuel tank, enough to run all day, with additional fuel tanks available to let you go on truly epic adventures.

Want one of your own? Even fully equipped, the Sherp still prices out at less than $100,000 (with trailer!). So what are you waiting for? The end of civilization is coming.

-- The Verge February 9, 2016

Tancredo: Organize Militias to Defend against Radical Islamist Assaults

The assault in San Bernardino may prove to be the turning point in the Islamist war on America. Americans are realizing that it's time to get deadly serious about self-defense.

- The cavalry is not coming: we must defend ourselves.
- We need a national movement for a trained, deputized Citizens Reserve Militia.

Islamist assassins are here, and by "here" I mean in your community — in Phoenix, Portland, Miami, Chicago, and for certain, Minneapolis, Detroit and San Francisco. Also, in Peoria, Aspen and Topeka.

The FBI has said there are 900 investigations under way in all 50 states, and 48 Islamists "deserve" round-the-clock surveillance. Most likely there are 9,000 more who deserve 24-hour surveillance, but the FBI does not have the resources.

So, here we are.

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and the New York Times are worried more about the oceans rising than about keeping radical Muslims out of our country.

Our problem is no longer national security, it is hometown security.

The solution is a homeland reserve militia trained in self-defense – for defense of our communities, neighborhoods, schools, sports events, shopping malls — in short, the everyday defense of our way of life.

Consider the dire condition of our law enforcement capabilities.

- The FBI is not given the resources to prevent radical Islamists from acting on their plans.
- The CIA and other intelligence agencies warnings are ignored.
- The Republican-controlled Congress refuses to halt the flow of refugees from regions infused with radical Islamists.
- Our LEGAL immigration and asylum policies allow a half-million Muslims into the country each year.
- The local police are 5-to-10 minutes away after a 911 call.

We can wait to fix the obstacles to self-defense through the political process, or we can arm ourselves while we work on those fixes.

In San Bernardino, the police arrived in 4 minutes of the first shots, and still 14 people were slaughtered. Next time it could be 140 or 400.

In San Bernardino, the assassins were two "self-radicalized" Islamist jihadists, one of them an American-born Muslim. The female assassin had been "vetted" by two federal agencies and awarded a visa.

It's time to wake up and smell the ashes of self-delusion.

Meanwhile Barack Obama plays golf and Hillary Clinton wants to have a "national conversation" about gun confiscation.

An America disarmed is an America in subjugation.

In the absence of leadership from above, it's time for states and communities to act in their own self-defense.

- Under the Tenth Amendment states and local governments can organize reserve militias, a properly trained and deputized battalion of citizens who serve as backup to local law enforcement.
- Reserve militia members will be sworn to uphold the Constitution and protect communities from violent assaults from any quarter.
- States and communities can also declare an end to so-called "gun free zones," which are nothing but suicide pacts.
- States and communities can allow and indeed encourage more private citizens to obtain concealed carry permits and arm themselves.

We should seriously consider subsidizing the purchase of firearms by low-income citizens. Terrorists and criminals already know how to obtain guns, so why not help the defenseless? If we can afford food stamps and housing subsidies, why not gun stamps to help urban citizens survive the next Islamist assault?

We live in a very polarized nation, divided not between Republicans and Democrats but between those who want to defend our liberties and those who want to defend politically correct stupidities.

Citizens should not wait for the politically correct and our cowardly Congress to wake up; they can act now at the state and local level. Before it really is too late.

-- www.breitbart.com/2015/12/04

Ed.: Tom Tancredo, a former Congressman from Colorado, quit the Republican party for the second time in 2015.

‘End the Gun Epidemic’ –N.Y. Times Front-Page Editorial

In its first front-page editorial in nearly 100 years the New York Times is calling for a drastic reduction of the availability of guns in America.

“It is possible to define those guns in a clear and effective way and, yes, it would require Americans who own those kinds of weapons to give them up for the good of their fellow citizens."

Editorials are written independently from the newsroom. Newspapers like The Times usually emphasize and enforce a divide between the news side and the opinion side.

But not this time. The placement of the editorial on the front page is intended to stoke public debate about stricter gun regulations.

The editorial says "it is past time to stop talking about halting the spread of firearms, and instead to reduce their number drastically — eliminating some large categories of weapons and ammunition."

According to the newspaper, its last front-page editorial came out on July 13, 1920. It was about Warren G. Harding being nominated for president by the Republican party.

-- http://money.cnn.com/2015/12/04

January gun background checks set new record

The FBI conducted more gun-related background checks in January, 2016 than in any other January since the system went into force, in November, 1998.

The 2,545,802 checks processed through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) beat the previous record, set in January 2013, by 50,326 checks. It marks the ninth month in a row that has set a record, and the third month in a row with more than two million background checks.

However, as noted by NICS, these statistics do not represent the number of firearms sold: “Based on varying state laws and purchase scenarios, a one-to-one correlation cannot be made between a firearm background check and a firearm sale.”

-- NICS Firearm Background Checks, January 31, 2016

Open carry in Texas, 'much ado about nothing', despite doomsayers' predictions

Open carry in Texas began not with a bang, but a whimper.

The somewhat controversial law allowing licensed gun owners to carry their firearms openly in public took effect Jan. 1. Predictions that the law would cause panic or even put the public in danger have, so far, proven to be off-target.

Critics believed a public unaccustomed to seeing guns carried openly would call police out of fear. But no such complaints were filed in January in Tarrant County, where Fort Worth is the county seat.

Texas' gun laws have long been among the strictest in the nation. Carrying handguns was first restricted by local legislature in 1871. In 1995, the law was changed to allow for concealed carry permits. The new, open-carry law was passed last year.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, only 3.4 percent of the state’s 27 million residents have any sort of license to carry a firearm. While the new law allows licensed owners to openly display their weapons, it also allows private businesses to implement their own bans.

A recent survey by the Texas Police Chief’s Association found that 75 per cent of police chiefs in the state oppose the law.

-- foxnews.com Feb. 8, 2016

How the FBI convinces hedge funders trading on inside information to spill the beans

When the FBI wants to get a hedge fund portfolio manager to be a cooperating witness in an insider-trading case, they'll follow that person everywhere, according to FBI Special Agent David Chaves.

On Thursday evening, Chaves gave a presentation on insider trading at an event hosted by the N.Y. Hedge Fund Round Table at the Penn Club of N.Y.

Since 2009, the government has been cracking down on insider trading in the hedge fund industry with dozens of arrests and convictions made.

Finding a cooperating witness has been essential to many of those cases.

A cooperating witness is someone who has also committed a crime. The FBI approaches this individual and says if they wear a wire, cooperate, and testify against others, the US Attorney's office will submit a letter to the court explaining how that person helped in the investigation when it's time for their sentencing.

To find these people, the FBI has partnered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Together, they look for traders who seemingly guessed right over the last few years on mergers and acquisitions, earnings, or good or bad news affecting a company's stock.

"Are they the best traders in the world or are they cheating?"

Once they know they have someone, they'd follow that person for months to make sure they have the leverage to get them to cooperate.

Here's how Chaves said it works:

We would watch these people put their kids on the school bus, watch them drive to work, get on the subway or train with them, follow them to work, watch them at the office, watch them work out at gyms — so that we could listen to what was going on, who they talked to. We would see them after work, meeting a drug dealer, an escort, a girlfriend. We knew more about them than their wives did.

At the right opportunity we approach them in places like Dunkin' Donuts where we knew exactly how they took their coffee. So when it was their turn to order, we'd just say, "Oh we're buying today. He takes three sugars and a cream." Now they are really off guard.

We'd sit them down. We'd say, "You can walk out that door right now because you're not under arrest, but let me tell you before you do that, that this is what you've been doing in your professional life, in your personal life. You can walk out the door, but in a few weeks you're going to hear a pounding at your door at 6 a.m., the anointed time the FBI arrests people, and your opportunity to cooperate will be no longer. However, pick up the phone right now and call this insider you've been talking to and just talk about that last deal you did and talk about what's

on the horizon and we're going to record that call."

Nine times out of 10 that's exactly what they do, Chaves said.

-- Business Insider, Jan. 31, 2016

.22 caliber in India the 'first gun for women'

India has introduced a 250 gram handgun that lays claim to be the lightest in India. The .22 caliber revolver is named Nidar and costs just above 500 USD. A state-run arms factory also introduced Nirbheek two years ago, a handgun pitched as the country's "first gun for women." An official at the state-run Rifle Factory Ishapore said they expected to sell 10,000 units of Nidar this year. Both Nirbheek and Nidar are synonyms of Nirbhaya – the nickname given by the Indian press to Jyoti Singh, the 23 year old victim of a fatal gang rape on a bus in Delhi in December 2012. All three words mean fearless in Hindi.

-- foreignpolicy.com February 12, 2016

After Oregon Standoff Some Say: Right Fight; Wrong Tactics

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Right fight; wrong strategy.

That's what many ranchers and sympathizers opposing federal control of public lands in the West concluded after the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

For some, the weekslong standoff that ended Thursday has only strengthened their resolve to fight the government's control of vast expanses of Western land. But not all condone the tactics of the armed group.

"We're not backing off," said Greg Whalen, a military veteran from Las Vegas who supports the Bundy ranching family that led the occupation.

Whalen and others say protests must remain a key part of the strategy - but they must be civil to avoid giving a reason for arrests.

Others suggest the battle should shift to the courts. State lawmakers, notably in Utah, are considering a legal way to take control of U.S. lands that account for a majority of the West, including most of Nevada; about two-thirds of Utah, Idaho and Alaska; and half of Oregon.

Federal officials say U.S. control ensures the land is used in the interest of the environment, outdoor enthusiasts and industries, such as ranching, mining, and oil and gas.

The dispute predates statehood in some places. But calls for action have gotten louder as federal agencies designate protected areas for endangered species and set aside tracts for mining, wind farms and natural gas exploration. The latest wave has roots in the Sagebrush Rebellion, which began more than 40 years ago over grazing rights in Nevada.

Occupiers that seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon on Jan. 2 demanded the U.S. turn over the land to locals and release two ranchers imprisoned for setting fires.

25 people have been charged in the Oregon occupation.

Brett Tolman, a former U.S. attorney in Utah, said the federal government is trying to send a message: You will face legal consequences if you cross the line from peaceful protest. Therein lies the danger in the federal strategy: The intended message may be misinterpreted, Tolman said.

Many are giving martyr status to Arizona rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, who was killed by police in a Jan. 26 traffic stop that also led to the arrests of Cliven Bundy's sons, Ammon and Ryan Bundy.

Finicum, an Oregon standoff spokesman, was memorialized at his funeral last week near the Utah-Arizona border as a freedom fighter murdered in the name of liberty. Authorities say he was reaching for a gun.

Jerry DeLemus traveled from New Hampshire to play peacemaker. "I love the Bundys," he said. "But they made a tactical mistake going out to that refuge. They were portrayed as armed anti-government protesters taking over government buildings. There was a lot of fear."

-- February 12, 2016

Rape charges hang over U.N. peacekeepers in Africa

BANGUI, Central African Republic — Fresh details of rape and other sexual abuses by United Nations peacekeeping forces here continue to surface.

Human Rights Watch released a report Feb.4 alleging that U.N. peacekeepers had raped at least eight girls and women last year, including a 14-year-old girl.

The U.N. said it is investigating the Human Rights Watch claims and has confined soldiers from the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo who allegedly participated in the assaults to their barracks.

The allegations are similar to those leveled in January by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, saying French and European Union troops stationed here abused children, including a 7-year-old who performed sexual acts in exchange for water and cookies.

Other allegations surfaced in April 2015 about child abuse here by peacekeepers dating back to 2014.

On Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon named American Jane Holl Lute, a former U.N. undersecretary, to coordinate efforts to prevent future sexual abuse by peacekeepers.

A peacekeeping force has been in the Central African Republic since 2014 when the U.N. sent in 10,000 troops, police and civilians to quell violence that exploded after a 2013 coup pitted Muslim rebels against Christian militias.

The sexual assault scandal is one reason France decided this year to pull 600 of its 900 peacekeeping troops from this country. France has deployed as many as 2,500 troops here. The French Defense Ministry said it is investigating the child abuse accusations.

"I thought these soldiers were sent to protect us from the militias, but they had their own intention: to rape and kill," said Abdou Mbone, whose wife was raped. "They continue to repeat the same act despite the outcry."

-- usatoday.com/2016/02/13

Former Investigator: There's 'Something Fishy' Going on With Antonin Scalia's Death

William Ritchie, former head of criminal investigations for the Washington, D.C., police force, wrote on Facebook: "As a former homicide commander, I am stunned that no autopsy was ordered for Justice Scalia… My gut tells me there is something fishy going on in Texas."

"I was stunned that at this day and time with someone as important as a justice sitting on the Supreme Court, you would have a haphazard investigation," Richie told INSIDE EDITION.

Justice Scalia was found dead in his bed in a hotel suite at the 30,000 acre Cibolo Creek Ranch in west Texas on Saturday.

The ranch owner says he discovered Scalia with "a pillow over his head" but a local judge pronounced him dead of natural causes without seeing the body or performing an

autopsy, which is permissible under Texas law.

Ritchie said: "I am not suggesting foul play, I am saying do a thorough investigation."

-- INSIDE EDITION Feb. 16, 2016

Jurors shown Islamic State flags recovered in Texas attack

PHOENIX (AP) — Jurors at the trial of an Arizona man accused of helping plan last May 3's attack on a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Garland, Texas, were shown evidence found in the aftermath of the gunfire, including two flags bearing the logo of the Islamic State terrorist group, three assault rifles, three pistols, bulletproof vests, a large supply of ammunition and a book titled, "Fortress of the Muslim."

The evidence was presented at the trial of Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem, a 44-year-old moving company owner accused of encouraging the two Arizona men to carry out the attack and providing them with guns.

Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi were fatally shot by a Garland police officer after they opened fire outside a conference center where the event was being held. No one who attended the event was hurt. A security officer was shot in the leg.

Prosecutors say Kareem, Simpson and Soofi initially wanted to blow up the metro Phoenix stadium hosting the 2015 Super Bowl and a nearby shopping center. When that plan failed, they allegedly set their sights on the cartoon contest in Garland.

Kareem claims the government is using guilt through association to target him.

Many pieces of evidence from the Garland attack were strewn across the scene after authorities set off a pre-emptive explosion.

-- February 18, 2016

Isn't It Strange?

By Walter E. Williams

There is a letter titled "Isn't It Strange?" making the rounds in email boxes. It asks questions to which our fellow Americans should know the answers, save for those caught up in modernity.

It starts off asking, "Isn't it strange that after a bombing, everyone blames the bomber, his upbringing, his environment, his culture but ... after a shooting, the problem is the gun?"

The letter contains several photos under the caption, "These men support your right to bear arms." The photos are of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. Below it is the caption, "These men oppose it," with photos of Adolf Hitler, Fidel Castro, Josef Stalin, Idi Amin, Vladimir Lenin and Barack Obama. Then it asks, "Who do you trust?"

Later on, there is a statement asking us to rename government programs, saying, "Get it straight: Welfare, Food Stamps, WIC ... are not entitlements. They are taxpayer-funded handouts. Social Security and Veterans Benefits are 'Entitlements' because the people receiving them are entitled to them. They were earned and paid for by the recipients."

Then there is a warning: "No society ever thrived because it had a large and growing class of parasites living off those who produced." If one listens to the current debate and rhetoric of most politicians, both Democrats or Republicans, it is about expanding the class of Americans who live at the expense of other Americans, whether they are promising "free" education and medical care or forcing Americans to purchase products such as ethanol in order to enrich others.

John Wayne put it best, particularly for my colleagues in academia. "I'd like to know why well-educated idiots keep apologizing for lazy and complaining people who think the world owes them a living."

Finally, there is a most important message from our 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower: "If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They'll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads. But if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government."

-- cnsnews.com February 2, 2016

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor/Friend,

At the age of XX and with deteriorating health, I have developed a 'Bucket List' of the 100 most important things I wish to 'do' prior to leaving this world. Thanking you and all those others who may have taken part for your kindness and generosity over the years is an important item on that list.

This is not a plea for anything and I am not dying outright; this is just a sincere and genuine thank you for your caring over the past and if there is a God, I'm sure that He has made a note of your compassion.

Namaste and thanx!

AA
Southwest prison

* * *

Greetings my brothers,

Just got the chance to read the August 2015 newsletter. Very good intel. Thank you. I receive your letter through a third, fourth, fifth party. I also receive the Resister (underground SF newspaper) from a friend. – Anyway keep up the good work in spreading the word. Hopefully the sheeple will awaken before them blue-helmeted jack-booted rapists walk down our streets collecting our weapons. I've still got faith in America even though I'm stuck in this shi#hole state of XXXstan. Our group in XX was very active in spreading the word about gun-ownership and the upcoming Gun Confiscation Program we're hearing so much about.

Anyway. Just to let you know guys, your newsletter is being read coast to coast. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
BB, Ssgt, US Special Field Forces, XXX Militia, XXX Light Infantry
Western prison

Ed.: Ah paranoia, those X's, A's and B's are ours.

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